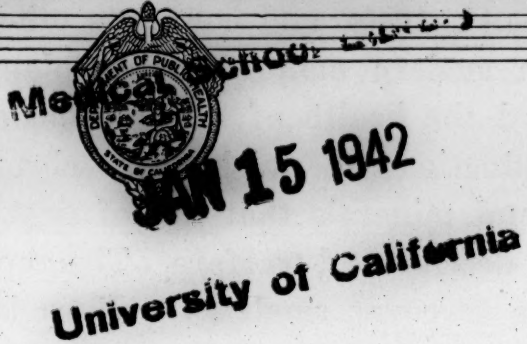


# WEEKLY BULLETIN

## CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ESTABLISHED APRIL 15, 1870  
BERTRAM P. BROWN, M. D., Director



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GUY P. JONES  
Editor

## PUBLIC HEALTH IN A WAR EMERGENCY

It is just as important in a wartime emergency that the health of the civilian population be maintained at high levels as it is that the health of the Army and Navy personnel be maintained at equally high levels. For this reason health departments must expand their administrative functions so as to provide for health safeguards in the immediate vicinity of all military zones and at the same time provide additional safeguards in the areas occupied by civilians.

Among those activities that are of particular importance in the provision of environmental sanitation are the protection of public water supplies and the provision of adequate facilities for community sewage disposal. All watersheds throughout the State must be patrolled to safeguard against wilful contamination and sabotage. All water that is provided for public use must be chlorinated in order that it may be rendered thoroughly potable for human consumption, with no possibility of any communicable disease being contracted through its consumption. It is important that all water supplies that may be used in military training posts be of the utmost purity. The provision must be made for the frequent tests of community water supplies throughout the State, in order that quality may be assured at all times.

### *Sewage Disposal*

The tremendous additions to industrial plants engaged in preparations for war, the establishment of new camps where thousands of soldiers are housed, together with the greatly increased civilian population attracted by employment in wartime industries have added tremendously to the demand for proper

sewage disposal. In order that water supplies may be safeguarded, it is essential that all sewage be disposed of in such a manner that there may be no opportunity whatsoever for water contamination. All sewage disposal plants in the State must be checked at frequent intervals in order to make certain that they are functioning properly, and advice must be available at all times in order that there may be no unsolved problems in the disposal of industrial and other wastes that may present difficulties. Both proper supervision over water supplies and sewage disposal require adequate personnel and facilities in order that there may be no lack of assurance that these two important functions are operating at all times in the preservation of the health of both civilian and military personnel.

### *Food and Drugs*

In the war emergency, prevention of contamination of food products as well as their adulteration is of primary importance. Perishable foods must be handled in cleanly fashion so as to prevent any bacterial contamination with resultant "food poisoning." In normal times, outbreaks of food poisoning are of common occurrence and during abnormal times there must be added safeguards against outbreaks of this sort lest the public health be jeopardized. Restaurants and other food producing and food dispensing establishments must be kept clean at all times.

The food packing industry of California at this time contributes enormously to national defense. The continuance of measures to assure the quality of California commercially packed food products must continue unabatedly. The increase in the demand for



commercially packed food products is noted not only in the military but also in the civilian population. This includes fish and fish products, vegetables, meat and meat products and all commercially packed products that must come under the supervision of the State Department of Public Health.

Drugs and medical supplies at this time must be of the highest grade. There must be no substitution of inferior products and there must be no opportunity for any errors in adulteration of drugs that are important in national defense and warfare. Continued inspections must be made at all the centers of production and distribution in order to provide definite assurance that all drugs and medical supplies that are needed in the national emergency be of the highest grade.

#### *General Sanitation*

General sanitation, including garbage disposal, mosquito control, domestic stream pollution, rodent control and many other subjects are of very great importance during a war emergency. Unless garbage is disposed of properly, there will be an increase in the numbers of disease-bearing rodents which may transmit plague and other disease to human beings.

In the rural districts where surface streams are frequently used for domestic purposes, it is highly important that safeguards be provided against the pollution of all surface streams. Mosquitoes, flies and other insects must be kept under control and breeding inhibited, in order that malaria and intestinal diseases transmitted by flies may be kept under control.

The war emergency places added burdens upon all sanitary inspections and related activities. Lack of sanitation in a single roadside eating place might result in an outbreak of communicable disease that would be highly disastrous to military personnel.

Plague, which is always a menace to the public health in western States, must be kept under control during the war emergency. Because of the fact that thousands of men in uniform are in camps in rural areas where rodents may be abundant, it is of the utmost importance that control measures against rats and ground squirrels be maintained continuously in all sections of the State.

#### *Industrial Hygiene*

The importance of industrial hygiene in the war emergency is clear. When every effort is being expended in the production of materials for warfare, the health of industrial workers comes at the very apex of the public health program. The Bureau of Industrial Hygiene of the State Department of Public

Health is active in the provision of surveys and making of recommendations to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, poisoning due to lacquers and chemical solvents, dusts, and countless other hazards that occur in modern manufacturing plants. It acts to safeguard the health of miners who are engaged in the production of quicksilver, chrome and other metals and minerals that are of first importance in national defense and warfare. The expansion of these activities to cover small as well as large industrial plants is of paramount importance at the present time.

#### *Communicable Disease Control*

Communicable diseases in wartime must be kept under control in the civilian as well as the military population. Since men in uniform enjoy recreational facilities that are provided in civilian communities, it is important that all opportunities for contact with communicable diseases be eliminated.

In wartime the control of the venereal diseases is of great importance. Adequate laws have been provided to prevent the contraction of infection, and public health services are engaged largely in the provision of treatment for infected cases among the civilian population, assurance that such treatment is continued until cases are noninfectious. It must search for contacts and insist upon treatment. It must do all that may be possible to repress commercial prostitution. It must educate the general public in the prevention and control of venereal diseases. It must provide blood tests in its laboratory for all individuals who are unable to pay for such tests. It must provide full treatment for selectees who may have been rejected in the first draft. It must cooperate with the Army and Navy in order that the venereal diseases may not provide any handicap to men in uniform.

#### *Tuberculosis*

History shows that tuberculosis always flares up in time of warfare. Whenever added stresses come to the individual, whenever there may be lack of adequate nutrition, longer hours of labor and personal neglect, tuberculosis always rises. For that reason, there must be added safeguards at the present time in order that individuals who are subnormal physically may be under control, lest tuberculosis develop. The machinery for detecting tuberculosis and provision of medical care and treatment must be maintained at higher levels than ordinarily. Only through the provision of such facilities can the menace of tuberculosis be throttled.



### *Influenza*

The experience with influenza in the first World War gives clear indication of the terrific damage that this disease may cause in both military and civilian populations. Twenty-five years ago no known facilities for its prevention were available. Fortunately, through the provision of research, a vaccine that has been proved valuable in the prevention of certain types of influenza among large groups of individuals is now available. Through the activities of the Influenza Research Laboratory, with proper support, quantities of such vaccine may be made available not only for Army and Navy personnel, but also for industrial workers.

### *Laboratory*

The laboratory is of great importance in national defense. Not only must it assist practitioners of medicine in establishing diagnoses of communicable diseases, but it must provide blood tests for the Selective Service. It must manufacture vaccines to protect the general public against epidemics of typhoid and other communicable diseases. It must provide facilities for water examination, testing of shellfish, chemical analyses of food products and other laboratory services that would safeguard public health in a time of warfare.

### *Nutrition*

The program for the provision of education in the selection of proper foods to maintain high personal efficiency must be continued without interruption. Because of the war emergency there should be no gap in the provision of information to the general public on the selection of foods that will safeguard against malnutrition. The educational activities along these lines that have been undertaken by the State Department of Public Health are of the utmost importance to the people of this State and observance of the rules of nutrition will go far toward maintenance of physical vigor.

### *Vital Statistics*

The war industries and communication services will not employ men who are unable to prove their citizenship. The birth certificate provides definite proof of citizenship and the demand for birth certificates has increased tremendously in the present emergency. Not only must the State Department of Public Health make searches of its records for birth certificates for men who desire to enter the Army, the Navy, the wartime industries and the communication services, but it must also search for certificates for native-born Japanese who at this time must prove their citizen-

ship in order to maintain their normal lives during the emergency. There must be great expansion in all activities relating to vital statistics in order that the public may be properly served.

### *Evacuation and Emergencies*

There are contingencies totally unforeseen at the present time that may call upon every resource that public health authorities can possibly provide. Among them may be considered evacuation of civilian population from populous areas into rural areas. This would require intensive activities in the provision of emergency water supplies, sewage disposal, immunization against certain communicable diseases and general sanitation.

The potential damages to sanitary systems in actual warfare, the damage that may be done by poison gases, and the production of physical damage to individuals must all be considered from a public health standpoint. In the provision of national defense and the pursuit of warfare, there are many potentialities that affect the public health and which can not possibly be anticipated until the disaster occurs.

## **GARBAGE DUMP FIRES PROHIBITED**

The Director of the California State Department of Public Health has requested all health officers to extinguish fires on garbage dumps, immediately, in order that "blackout" requirements may be met. Many garbage dumps are located in proximity to naval and military reservations and often they are kept burning night and day with smoke and fire visible for many miles. It is requested that the practice of burning on garbage dumps be forbidden.

The recommendation is made that all garbage be covered with at least two feet of earth and that deposits of garbage and refuse be covered daily. Facilities for extinguishing fires that might be started incidentally should be provided.

It is also important that intensive rodent control operations be maintained on all garbage dumps in order that the rat population may be maintained at a minimum. Such control measures are important in order that plague may not be permitted to spread among rodents.

## **PSITTACOSIS CONTROL**

During the month of November, 263 shipping certificates were issued for 3,496 shell parrakeets and 303 larger psittacine birds. Also, 32 shell parrakeet aviaries were inspected. In addition, 49 shell parrakeets from three aviaries were tested for psittacosis.



**BOTULISM**

An outbreak involving five cases of botulism with one death was investigated during November. All patients had partaken of home canned beets which had been packed in glass jars in Montana and transported to Berkeley. The patient who died had eaten the largest portion of the product. The causative organism was demonstrated from the empty jar and intestinal contents of the fatal case. Antitoxin was given to all patients, which may have provided a possible factor in the recovery of four.

**FOOD POISONING**

A Japanese mother, last month, purchased rum-filled cakes for a party given for her year-old child. The cakes were given to family and friends and about 50 individuals were made ill through eating the product and a case in one child proved fatal. The symptoms were that of staphylococcus food poisoning. Portions of the cake were sent to the State laboratory for examination.

**PSITTACOSIS**

A fatal case in an individual, age 35, was investigated in Kings County during November. The duration of illness was 21 days. The clinical picture was that of psittacosis and the complement fixation test was positive. About 150 pigeons were roosting in a tank house on the ranch. Twelve of these were examined and about 60 per cent were found to be positive, by complement fixation.

Now more than ever before, public health workers must assume new responsibilities and be ready to adapt themselves quickly to what may lie ahead. National defense is a powerful additional reason for intensifying and extending our public health program and for a rigorous self-analysis of our work.—JOHN L. RICE, M.D., *Commissioner of Health, New York City.*

**MORBIDITY****Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending December 13, 1941****Chickenpox**

735 cases from the following counties: Alameda 126, Calaveras 1, Colusa 1, Contra Costa 51, Fresno 17, Imperial 3, Inyo 2, Kern 19, Lake 2, Los Angeles 225, Madera 4, Monterey 10, Orange 3, Plumas 7, Riverside 48, Sacramento 14, San Bernardino 39, San Diego 52, San Francisco 22, San Joaquin 8, San Luis Obispo 2, San Mateo 8, Santa Barbara 25, Santa Clara 15, Solano 2, Sonoma 4, Stanislaus 12, Tulare 3, Ventura 5, Yolo 5.

**German Measles**

131 cases from the following counties: Alameda 5, Butte 2, Fresno 11, Kern 2, Lake 2, Los Angeles 14, Monterey 16, Nevada 14, Orange 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 11, San Francisco 18,

San Joaquin 1, San Luis Obispo 6, Santa Barbara 10, Stanislaus 2, Tulare 1, Yolo 14.

**Measles**

691 cases from the following counties: Alameda 25, Butte 1, Calaveras 1, Contra Costa 2, Fresno 14, Humboldt 1, Imperial 2, Kern 5, Kings 10, Lassen 1, Los Angeles 55, Marin 1, Monterey 30, Merced 1, Sacramento 47, San Bernardino 16, San Diego 23, San Francisco 5, San Joaquin 123, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara 2, Santa Cruz 2, Solano 1, Sonoma 16, Stanislaus 100, Sutter 77, Tulare 61, Ventura 33, Yolo 22, Yuba 12.

**Mumps**

1178 cases from the following counties: Alameda 78, Contra Costa 83, Del Norte 1, Fresno 42, Imperial 8, Kern 19, Kings 8, Lassen 13, Los Angeles 222, Madera 9, Merced 1, Monterey 65, Orange 61, Riverside 16, Sacramento 49, San Bernardino 30, San Diego 60, San Francisco 63, San Joaquin 105, San Luis Obispo 19, San Mateo 20, Santa Barbara 22, Santa Clara 49, Santa Cruz 12, Solano 12, Sonoma 43, Stanislaus 5, Sutter 19, Tulare 7, Ventura 25, Yolo 12.

**Scarlet Fever**

150 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Contra Costa 4, Fresno 7, Imperial 1, Kern 9, Kings 1, Lake 2, Los Angeles 67, Madera 1, Merced 2, Orange 1, Plumas 2, Riverside 5, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino 4, San Diego 5, San Francisco 3, San Joaquin 3, San Luis Obispo 17, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara 1, Santa Cruz 1, Solano 3, Sonoma 5, Sutter 1.

**Whooping Cough**

206 cases from the following counties: Alameda 16, Butte 7, Fresno 6, Imperial 5, Kern 3, Los Angeles 68, Monterey 2, Orange 3, Plumas 1, Sacramento 4, San Diego 12, San Francisco 3, San Joaquin 17, San Luis Obispo 5, Santa Barbara 14, Santa Clara 11, Solano 22, Sonoma 1, Sutter 2, Ventura 4.

**Diphtheria**

24 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 13, Madera 1, Riverside 5, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 1, Sonoma 2, Tulare 1.

**Dysentery (Bacillary)**

5 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 4, Sonoma 1.

**Jaundice (Infectious)**

6 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 2, San Francisco 3, Stanislaus 1.

**Malaria**

3 cases: Yolo County 1, California 2.\*

**Meningitis (Epidemic)**

3 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Contra Costa 1, Imperial 1.

**Paratyphoid Fever**

One case from Los Angeles County.

**Poliomyelitis**

7 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 2, Monterey 3, Riverside 1, San Diego 1.

**Rabies (Animal)**

16 cases from the following counties: Kings 1, Los Angeles 8, San Diego 6, Santa Clara 1.

**Trichinosis**

2 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, San Francisco 1.

**Typhoid Fever**

9 cases from the following counties: Imperial 1, Los Angeles 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 1, California 5.\*

**Undulant Fever**

5 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Los Angeles 3, Siskiyou 1.

**Influenza**

State total 108.

\* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

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